

to tell the reader the  
whole story of Ms being hired by  
Lord Lonsdale. M. — Ha! ha! ha! Murray. —  
From this you may judge what kind of man he  
is, and I need not tell you that there never  
was a being  
so ignorant of the world's ways. j/l. — I read  
the confessions in the *London Magazine*, and I  
had no idea that it was a genuine  
production. . . .

To the young<sup>1</sup> law clerk these dinners were evidently something<sup>1</sup> of an event; they gave him his earliest glimpses into a greater world ; and when in *Vivian Grey* he wanted to reproduce the conversation of men of fashion of the more serious type it was to his recollections of John. Murray's dinner parties that he turned for his model, and in part for his material.

As the years rolled by, however, and the boy outgrew his bookworm habits, the social side of his nature must have found room for expansion elsewhere; certainly he developed tastes and manners which neither his father's library nor Murray's dining-room could have suggested. Vivian Grey, we are told, when at the age of nineteen he emerged from the seclusion of his study and began to mingle in society, was 'an elegant lively lad with just enough of dandyism to preserve him from committing gaucheries and with the devil of a tongue'; and at a similar stage of his career the young Disraeli, we may suppose, was much the same. The dandyism at all events was already visible. From the wife of one of the partners of Frederick's Place testimony has come down that even thus early Benjamin Disraeli dressed very differently from other young men; he used to come to her house in a black velvet suit with ruffles, and black stockings with red clocks — which in those days was rather conspicuous attire.' Both *Vivian Grey* and *Oontarini Fleming* indicate that the love of feminine society, and the susceptibility to feminine influence, which were abiding features of his character, made their appearance early; though beyond his mother and his